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To whom it may concern,

I am under the impression that Michigan is considering an amendment to its rules to allow law students to brief and argue appellate cases in Michigan state courts. As a law professor who has taught an appellate litigation clinic, I strongly urge you to allow students to appear in your courts of appeal.

Prior to joining the law faculty of the University of California, Irvine, I was a chaired professor at Duke Law School in Durham, North Carolina. While at Duke, I taught an Appellate Litigation Clinic with Professor Erwin Chemerinsky and Professor James Coleman. The Appellate Litigation Clinic successfully handled a number of appeals in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and one case in the Virginia intermediate court of appeals. With the permission of the court and the clients, and under close supervision of Professors Coleman, Chemerinsky, and myself, the students prepared the briefs and the excerpts of record in the cases. A student argued each case. And, in several cases, the Duke Appellate Litigation Clinic won the appeal. The judges and opposing counsel expressed great admiration for the quality of the written and oral advocacy. The clients obtained superb and, in many cases, successful representation. It was an extraordinarily valuable experience for the students. There are a large number of cases pending in courts of appeals in which the litigants are proceeding pro se. Some of those cases have merit. Both the judges and the clients thought that the appellate litigation clinic performed a valuable public service for the judicial system and for impoverished litigants.

I hope you allow such a program to be created in the Michigan courts. I am absolutely certain that it would improve the administration of justice in your state.

Respectfully,

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